MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2022/2023 (TERM ID 2210)

DEN5018 – ENGLISH

(All Sections)

17 FEBRUARY 2023
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **EIGHT** pages only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A** and **B**.
3. Please write all your answers in the answer booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Read the passage below and answer all questions.

Cambodia Scams: Lured and Trapped into Slavery in Southeast Asia

1 It was an offer he could not **resist:** an easy job overseas, a sizeable salary and even a chance to live in a luxury hotel with his own personal trainer. When Yang Weibin saw the job advertisement for a telesales role in Cambodia, he immediately felt attracted. The 35-year-old Taiwanese was not making much money as a masseur, and he needed to support his sickly parents. Weeks later, Weibin hopped on a plane to Phnom Penh. When he reached the Cambodian capital, he was met by several men who drove him to a nondescript building on a deserted road. His passport was taken from him, and he was shown to a small bare room – his new home. The men said, 'You cannot leave the compound, ever.' The penny dropped. 'I knew then I had come to the wrong place, and that was a very dangerous situation,' he told the BBC.

2 Weibin is among the thousands of workers who have fallen prey to human traffickers running job scams in Southeast Asia in recent months. Governments across a vast swathe of Asia, including Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, have sounded the alarm.

3 Lured by advertisements promising easy work and extravagant job perks, many travel to Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. Once they arrive, they are held prisoner and forced to work in online scam centres known as 'fraud factories'. Human trafficking has long been an endemic problem in Southeast Asia. However, experts say criminal networks are looking further afield and preying on a different type of victim. Their targets tend to be quite young, and many are teenagers. They are also better-educated, computer-literate and usually speak more than one regional language. These are seen as key by traffickers who need skilled labour to conduct online criminal activities, ranging from love scams and crypto fraud to money laundering and illegal gambling.

4 Chi Tin from Vietnam told the BBC that he had to pose as a woman and befriend strangers online. 'I was forced to make 15 friends every day and entice them to join online gambling and lottery websites. I had to convince five people to deposit money into their gaming accounts,' he said. 'The manager told me to work obediently and not to try to escape or resist or I will be taken to the torture room. Many others told me that if they did not meet the target, they would be starved and beaten.'

5 The abuse by traffickers often results in lasting trauma among victims of job scams. Two Vietnamese victims, who declined to be named, told the BBC that they were repeatedly beaten, electrocuted and sold to scam centres. One of them is just 15 years old. With her face disfigured by the abuse, she has dropped out of school since returning home, feeling ashamed to face her friends. Other victims have claimed to experience long-term emotional suffering and mental health harm. They have to struggle with psychological symptoms such as anxiety, depression, withdrawal and self-isolation.

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6 In Chi Tin's case, his family managed to scrape together $2,600 (£1,600) as the ransom to buy his freedom. The victims are told to pay off essentially a hefty amount of money to the scam centres if they want to leave or they will be sold to another scam centre. Those who cannot afford it have to attempt a dangerous escape. In one highly publicised case in August 2022, more than 40 Vietnamese imprisoned in a Cambodian casino broke out of their compound and jumped into a river in an attempt to swim across the border. A 16-year-old teenager died when he was swept away by the currents.

7 While Cambodia has emerged as a major hotspot known for its scam centres, many scam centres can also be found in border towns in Thailand and Myanmar. 'Many are sophisticated with separate departments for IT, finance and money laundering. The bigger ones can be corporate-like, with training provided for scamming and sales targets,' said Jan Santiago, spokesman for rescue and advocacy group, Global Anti-Scam Organisation (Gaso).

8 Law enforcement in Southeast Asia is starting to catch up. In recent months, Cambodian police have worked with Indonesian, Thai, Malaysian and Vietnamese authorities to conduct crackdowns on scam centres. Cambodia has also introduced screening for people leaving for Southeast Asian destinations by asking people about their reasons for travel. In August 2022, Indonesian officials stopped private flights that took hundreds of workers to Cambodia's Sihanoukville. In some countries in Southeast Asia, a direct hotline has been set up for victims. *This* provides a way for them to seek help.

9 However, Santiago said that several steps need to be taken to fully stamp out the problem. 'Southeast Asian governments need to update their trafficking laws to have necessary support systems for individuals and more transboundary law enforcement cooperation. They also need to intensify their public education campaigns to raise awareness of the scams.'

10 Groups of volunteers helping victims escape and return home, such as Gaso, have also sprung up in several countries. Some of these volunteers are former victims themselves, such as Weibin. After spending 58 days in captivity in Cambodia, he managed to escape one morning by crawling out of the compound. With the help of anti-scam activists, he finally returned home and is now back at his old job. His massage stall has a new feature: a large white sign with a handwritten account of his experience in Cambodia. He has also shared his story extensively online. 'A lot of people really want a good life and have fantasies about jobs which are unrealistic. Now, I advise people to be wiser and more realistic,' he told the BBC. 'You can earn money in your own country. You do not need to go abroad to take such risks.'

Adapted from Wong, T., Thu, B., & Lee, L. (2022, September 20). Cambodia scams: Lured and trapped into slavery in Southeast Asia. *BBC*. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-62792875

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PART 1: CONTEXTUAL CLUES (5 MARKS)

Instructions: Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.

No.	Definition	Paragraph	Answer
0.	**to refuse something that is attractive**	**Paragraph 1**	**resist**
1.	tempted by certain rewards	Paragraph 3	_____
2.	an amount of money demanded to release someone who is held captive	Paragraph 6	_____
3.	started to become known to people	Paragraph 7	_____
4.	actions taken by an authority to stop an illegal activity	Paragraph 8	_____
5.	not reasonable or not likely to be achieved	Paragraph 10	_____

PART 2: TRUE/FALSE STATEMENTS (5 MARKS)

Instructions: Identify each statement below as True (T) or False (F).

1. Yang Weibin was forced to move around in the city of Phnom Penh to carry out tasks given to him. _____
2. Although victims of job scams were verbally threatened, they were not physically harmed. _____
3. Job scam victims are sometimes sold to other scam centres. _____
4. Southeast Asian governments have banned people from travelling to Cambodia's Sihanoukville. _____
5. Some of the volunteers who are involved in rescuing job scam victims were victims of job scams themselves in the past. _____

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PART 3: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (15 MARKS)

Instructions: Answer all the following comprehension questions.

1. Describe the characteristics of victims who become the prey in job scams. (2 marks)
2. What was Chi Tin from Vietnam forced to do while he was held captive? (2 marks)
3. What is the main idea of paragraph 5? (1 mark)
4. How can job scam victims regain their freedom? (2 marks)
5. Why are many scam centres said to be sophisticated? (2 marks)
6. What does the word '*This*' in line 63 refer to? (1 mark)
7. What can Southeast Asian governments do to fully get rid of the problem of job scams? (2 marks)
8. How does Weibin help others to be aware of job scams? (3 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [25 MARKS]

PART 1: WORD CLASSES (5 MARKS)

Instructions: Read the text and identify the correct word class of the words in bold. Write your answers as shown in the example.

Example: (0) humans – noun

Why do we make bad shopping decisions?

(0) Humans do not always make the smartest **(1) decisions** when it comes to the things they buy. Time pressure can explain some of the decisions. We grab the first thing we see on the shelf without checking the price and head to the cashier. Many are unaware that grocery stores charge brands more to place items at the average consumer's eye height on shelves.

However, research **(2) frequently** shows that even when we are not pressed for time, we do not always make the right decisions when it comes to price points. A recent study, published in the *Journal Review of Behavioural Economics*, has offered a new model to understand why poor and **(3) defective** decisions are made.

When consumers have an **(4) opportunity** to save $5 on a product priced at $25 and another opportunity to save $5 on a product priced at $500, they will most likely take advantage of the first promotion. They see the savings relative to the total price. **(5) Although** the first scenario is a 20 per cent saving and the second is a 1 per cent saving, they both amount to $5.

Other researchers have shown that humans **(6) reach** better decisions when options are limited. A neuroscientist at New York University showed this **(7) by** asking people to choose from several candy bars. For example, everyone's favourite candy was a Snickers bar. When researchers presented the choice between Snickers or Milky Way, the participants in the research always **(8) opted** for Snickers. However, when the researchers introduced more choices to the participants by offering 20 different candy bars, including Snickers, they did not always choose Snickers.

Interestingly, when the researchers got rid of all other candy bars and just presented participants with their chosen candy bar and Snickers, the participants could not understand their own decisions, and **(9) they** could not figure out why they did not opt for Snickers. Many researchers are trying to figure out what causes this decision making. This could be very **(10) urgent** as world economies struggle.

Adapted from Plackett, B. (2022, September 10). Why do we make bad shopping decisions? *Discover*. https://www.discovermagazine.com/mind/why-do-we-make-bad-shopping-decisions

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PART 2: SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT (10 MARKS)

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct verb as shown in the example.

The Coldest City in the World

In a letter written by an Antarctic explorer, Ernest Shackleton, during his expedition in September 1902, he described the extreme cold weather. 'We lost one of our men in a very bad storm, and we nearly lost three more men. The weather **(0) is (be)** extremely cold now, the lowest temperature having been -52.2 degrees Celsius,' Shackleton wrote. Nowadays, only a few thousand people, mainly scientists, visit Antarctica every year. Although Antarctica is the coldest continent, city dwellers in other parts of the world often (1) _____ (experience) temperatures that are just as cold as Antarctica.

Located in Siberia, the city of Yakutsk (2) _____(own) the name of the coldest city in the world, and one of the world's coldest and most sparsely populated regions in Russia (3) _____(be) Siberia. Yakutsk becomes home to around 336,200 people, many of whom work for Alrosa, a company that (4) _____ (run) a diamond mine.

Sometimes, temperatures in Yakutsk (5) _____(reach) -60 degrees Celsius. Some residents insist that they have experienced colder days, but they are unable to prove it because a thermometer only (6) _____(read) down as far as -63 degrees Celsius.

While Yakutsk is the coldest city, there (7) _____(be) other less-populous places that are even colder. Oymyakon, a Russian settlement of around 500 people, reached a frosty -71.2 degrees Celsius in 1924. Somewhat surprisingly, Yakutsk and Oymyakon are not that close to each other. They are separated by 928 kilometres, and a drive from one to the other (8) _____ (take) around 21 hours.

When it comes to extreme temperatures, is it preferable to live somewhere very cold or very hot? Cara Ocobock, a biological anthropologist at the University of Notre Dame said, 'I prefer extremely cold weather! I love Finland in the winter, and I like the dark and the cold!' Another question many people ask is the reason why people continue to live in these cold and difficult environments. 'Everyone (9) _____(have) a sense of pride in where he or she lives. Families in Yakutsk (10) _____(feel) proud of being able to successfully live in harsh places,' Ocobock said.

Adapted from Phelan, J. (2022, March 05). *What is the coldest city in the world?* Live Science. https://www.livescience.com/what-is-the-coldest-city

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PART 3: TENSES (10 MARKS)

Instructions: Read the text and choose the correct answer for each question.

Example: (0) ____A____

What the Japanese Can Teach us about Super-ageing Gracefully

Mieko Nagaoka **(0)** _____ swimming in her 80s to help recover from a knee injury she sustained while practising Noh, a traditional Japanese theatre. When she was 100 years old, Nagaoka (1) _____ her book entitled *I am 100 years old and the world's best active swimmer* before going on to set the first world record for her age group – swimming 1,500 metres in a pool.

Now, at 105 years old, she (2) _____ 18 world records. Soon, Nagaoka will relocate to live in Yokohama with her son who is 79 years old, and she (3) _____ from her amazing swimming career of 25 years when she relocates. Her son, who has helped Nagaoka in her training, said, 'We (4) _____ many happy moments swimming together since 25 years ago. There must be no other examples like us in the world.'

Ageing societies (5) _____ a global phenomenon now. According to the data collected by the United Nations' World Population Prospects, by 2050, the number of people aged 80 and above (6) _____ to 426 million. Currently, Japan (7) _____ a 'super-aged' society, with senior citizens aged 65 and above accounting for more than 28 per cent of its population.

However, Japan is ready to prepare its citizens for old age as getting old is a condition that cannot be helped. Most importantly, senior citizens in Japan have their own hobbies. Aside from active sports such as swimming, elders in Japan (8) _____ involved in various activities, from flower arrangement to taking up musical instruments and dancing.

Japanese senior citizens also show a higher mental ability compared to the rest of the senior citizens in the world. According to Yuko Oguma, associate professor in Health Management Research at the Keio Sports Medicine Research Centre, light exercise is effective not only for brain functions, but it is also important for the social aspect. Compared to 10 years ago, Japanese seniors today are healthier, and they (9) _____ a higher quality of living. This is thought to be a combination of better medical aid and understanding of our bodies.

In addition, recently, research (10) _____ that muscles can continue to strengthen even in old age. This is contrary to what we believed in. We believed that muscles deteriorate with age, but research has found that elders can still train and strengthen their muscles.

Adapted from Airth, J. (2020, March 30). What the Japanese can teach us about super-ageing gracefully. *BBC* https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200327-what-the-japanese-can-teach-about-super-ageing-gracefully.

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0.	**A. started**	**B. starts**	**C. has started**	**D. will start**
1.	A. publishes	B. published	C. has published	D. is publishing
2.	A. held	B. holds	C. was holding	D. will be holding
3.	A. retired	B. has retired	C. will retire	D. had retired
4.	A. had	B. have had	C. will have	D. will be having
5.	A. became	B. are becoming	C. had become	D. will have become
6.	A. increased	B. was increasing	C. is increasing	D. will have increased
7.	A. is facing	B. had faced	C. was facing	D. will be facing
8.	A. get	B. got	C. had got	D. had been getting
9.	A. enjoy	B. enjoyed	C. had enjoyed	D. were enjoying
10.	A. has shown	B. will show	C. is showing	D. had been showing

End of Paper